CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for adjusting the dimensions of an extruded thermoplastic component, said apparatus comprising:

a member mounted on a fixture, the member configured for receiving the thermoplastic component exiting the fixture;

means for selectively modifying the configuration of the member from a first position to a second position so that as the thermoplastic component is received by the member a dimension of the thermoplastic component is modified.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the member is comprised of an outer member with a first and second leg, and an inner member, the inner member slidably disposed between the first leg and second leg of the outer member.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the inner and outer members are comprised of an upper surface and a shaping means opposed the upper surface for adjusting the dimensions of the component exiting the fixture.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the inner member includes an overhanging plate detachably secured to the upper surface.

5. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the shaping means comprises a finger outwardly extending from the inner and outer members.

6. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the means for selectively modifying the configuration of the member comprises a screw in threaded engagement with the overhanging plate and in proximate contact with a substantially horizontal surface of either outer member so that upon rotation of the screw the inner member is slidably urged from the first position to the second position.

7. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the outwardly extending finger of the inner and outer members further comprises a crown for contact with the thermoplastic component.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the crown of the outwardly extending finger of the inner and outer members is elliptical in configuration.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the member is attached to the fixture with dowel pins.

10. A method for adjusting the dimensions of an extruded thermoplastic component exiting from a fixture, the method comprising:

mounting an adjustment member to the fixture;

feeding a sheet of extruded thermoplastic material into and through the fixture;

shaping the sheet into a profile in the fixture;

passing a feature of the profile through the adjustment member;

measuring a dimension of the feature of the profile;

determining dimensional variation from specification of the feature of the profile;

adjusting the adjustment member to compensate for dimensional variation from specification of the feature.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the mounting step comprises aligning the member with the fixture with dowel pins inserted into the member and the fixture.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the adjustment member is comprised of an inner member slidably disposed between two interconnected outer members.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the inner and outer members are comprised of a substantially flat upper surface and disposed opposite the upper

surfaces of the inner and outer members are outwardly extending fingers for urging the feature of the exiting thermoplastic component from a first position to a second position.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the outermost extent of the outwardly extending fingers of the inner and outer members comprise a crown for contacting the thermoplastic component.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the adjusting the adjustment member to compensate for dimensional variation from specification step comprises a means for displacing the position of the inner member relative to the outer member.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the means for displacing the position of the inner member relative to the outer member comprises a screw.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the adjustment member is stainless steel.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the determining dimensional variation from specification of the feature step comprises computing the difference between the specified dimension of a feature and the dimension of a feature following adjustment by the adjustment member.